Ashburton Minerals commissioned Phoenix to undertake a pre-clearing targeted flora and fauna survey and prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for its Mt Andrew Project.

Ashburton plan to explore for base metals within the Dundas Nature Reserve, situated 100 km east south east of Norseman. Prior to the application of a Program of Works (POW) and vegetation clearing permit to the Department of Mines (DMP), the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) requested Ashburton submit a CMP.

The purpose of the CMP was to document and present all activities relating to the POW program, describe the existing environment and determine the conservation values present and assess the risks to these values. A pre-clearing targeted survey for conservation significant flora and fauna species was required to generate sufficient information for inclusion into the CMP.

The survey area was remotely located and necessitated fly camping and careful logistical preparation to complete the required tasks and satisfy project milestones.

A desktop review of significant flora, vegetation and fauna, known to occur on or in close proximity to the survey area, was completed prior to the site visit. The field survey was undertaken by one senior botanist/ecologist working alongside a geologist from Ashburton. Access tracks routes and drill locations were selected during the field survey by the geologist with technical guidance from Phoenix to ensure minimisation of environmental disturbance and impacts to flora and fauna.

The field survey and final submission of the CMP to DPaW was completed on time, within budget, and to the satisfaction of the client. The CMP was endorsed by the DPaW with only minor modifications to the draft and will be submitted with the POW application to DMP.